

Public Testimony

Senator Haskell, Representative Haddad, vice chairs, ranking members, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, I would like to thank you for your time today. My name is Elizabeth Turpin and I am a student at Trinity College. I am here today to testify in favor of Raised Senate Bill 19, An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses.

Today I will be speaking on the aspect of the bill relating to amnesty for victims coming forward to their administration. Sexual Misconduct on my college campus is something that has personally affected me and many of my friends at Trinity. Thankfully for my community, Trinity has a form of policy in place that protects students coming forward as victims of sexual assault or violence from disciplinary action, but this is not the case on all college campuses across Connecticut. This policy, in my experience, has been the deciding factor between a victim coming forward and a victim feeling the need to navigate the issue on their own. This policy allows for a climate in which victim blaming is not tolerated. This policy enables victims to get the help they need in whatever form necessary to their experience. This policy provides a feeling of safety, trust, and recognition between the college and its students, and -by extension of the passing of this bill- between students and the state of Connecticut.

For these reasons, I would encourage all legislators help students in Connecticut feel safe on their college campus by supporting this bill.